



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-La Sal
National Forest

Supervisor's Office
599 West Price River Drive
Price, UT 84501
Phone # (435) 637-2817
Fax # (435) 637-4940

*cc: Tom
Leslie
Paul*

00230016 Incoming

File Code: 1950-1

Date: May 15, 2008

Dear Interested Parties:

Sunroc Corporation submitted a Plan of Operations (Plan) for the Chicken Creek Mine, an active surface gypsum mine, to the Sanpete Ranger District, Manti-La Sal National Forest, on August 1, 2007.

The mine is located in Juab County, Utah, and is comprised of the Chicken Creek East and Chicken Creek West working area. It is located on the west slope of the San Pitch Mountains (also known as the Gunnison Plateau), approximately 2 miles east of the town of Levan. The nine existing mining claims are specifically located in portions of Sections 33 and 34, T14S, R1E, and Section 4, T15S, R1E, SLB&M, on National Forest System lands (see attached map). This mine has been operating since the mid-1990s.

The Plan outlines the continuing and proposed mining operations for the Chicken Creek Mines and discloses proposed life of mine operations based on current production levels. The Plan also describes environmental protection measures covering air quality, water quality, storm water control and site drainage, sediment traps purpose and operation, solid wastes, scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, cultural resources, hazardous substances, and reclamation plans.

The Manti-La Sal National Forest as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is evaluating the possible effects of the Plan of Operations in an environmental analysis. The federal action being considered in this NEPA analysis is the Forest Service decision to approve the Plan as submitted, or to require modifications to the Plan to protect other resources, as provided for in 36 CFR 228.8.

The laws governing locatable minerals activities on National Forest System lands provide that the public has a statutory right to conduct prospecting, exploration, and development activities (1872 Mining Law and 1897 Organic Act), provided they are reasonably incident (1955 Multiple Use Mining Act and case law) to mining and comply with other federal laws. They also direct the Forest Service to regulate such activities (1897 Organic Act and 36 CFR 228A) for the purpose of minimizing adverse environmental effects provided such regulation does not endanger or materially interfere with prospecting, mining, or processing operations or reasonably incident uses (1955 Multiple Use Mining Act and case law).

Sunroc Corporation's proposed Plan and the Forest Service proposed action for this environmental analysis is for (1) continued mining in the Chicken Creek East and Chicken Creek West working area of the Chicken Creek Mine, and (2) construction of a proposed access road and potential mining in the Upper Chicken Creek West area. The total surface disturbance for proposed mining operations is estimated at about 100 acres.

The Chicken Creek West working area of the mine is divided into two parts, the current mine site and a proposed future site southeast of the current site. The current mine site has an approximate life of 10-20 years worth of mineral reserves to be mined. The proposed site has the potential of being in operation for approximately 100+ years.

RECEIVED

MAY 22 2008

DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING
Caring for the Land and Serving People

Printed on Recycled Paper



080002

The Chicken Creek East working area of the mine has had some mining take place near the base of the canyon and on private property. Based on current production rates, there are approximately 290 years of material reserves in this deposit.

You are invited to comment on the proposed action. This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to Forest Service regulations 36 CFR 215. Only those who submit timely comments during this comment period will be accepted as potential appellants. Comments can be either oral or written in response to this project. Each individual or representative from each organization, submitting comments must either sign the comments or otherwise verify identity in order to attain appeal eligibility. Comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project and will be available for public inspection. Comments should include the information required pursuant to 36 CFR 215.6(a)(3), as published in the Federal Register on June 4, 2003.

The Responsible Official for this environmental analysis is Howard Sargent, Forest Supervisor. Please send written comments to: Howard Sargent, Forest Supervisor, 599 West Price River Drive, Price Utah, 84501; phone: (435) 637-2817, fax: (435) 637-4940; e-mail: comments-intermtm-manti-lasal-sanpete@fs.fed.us. E-mailed comments must be submitted in MS Word (*.doc) or rich text format (*.rtf). Comments may also be delivered to the above address during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday, excluding federal holidays. The opportunity to comment ends 30 days following the date of publication of this legal notice in the *Sun Advocate*, Price, Utah.

If you have any questions please contact Tom Lloyd, Team Leader by mail: Box 310, Ferron, Utah, 84523; phone: 435-636-3596; and/or email: twlloyd@fs.fed.us. The Plan of Operation is available for public review (36 CFR 228.6) at the District Ranger's Office, 540 North Main, Ephraim, Utah, 84627-1117.

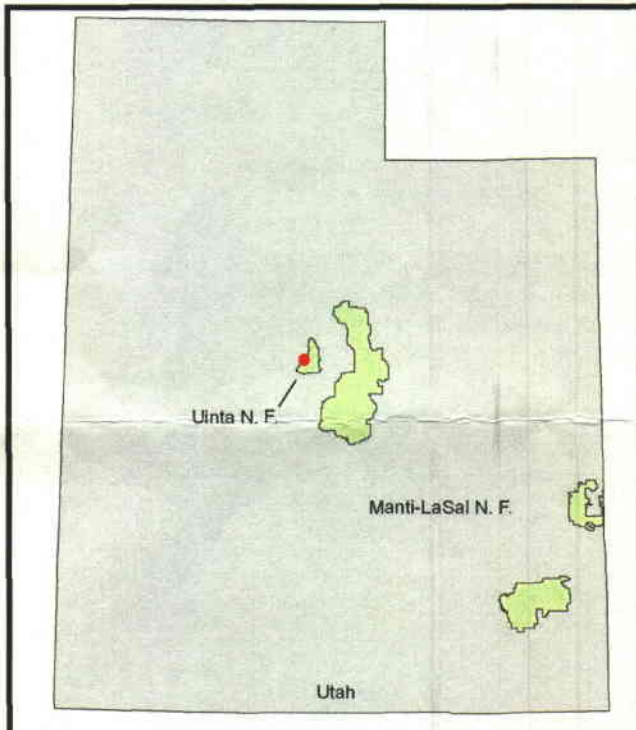
Sincerely,



 HOWARD SARGENT
Forest Supervisor

Chicken Creek Mine General Location

Uinta National Forest, Utah
(Administered by the Manti-LaSal N.F.)



- Road
- Forest Boundary
- Private Lands
- Mine Working Area

